Tagmadert location

Jacques Meunié et Charles Allain, “La forteresse Almoravide de Zagora,” *Hespéris, Archives Berbères et Bulletin de l’Institut des Hautes-Études Marocaines*, (Librairie LaRose Paris, 1956) 43 (3 – 4): 307, 309.

If it is not easy to locate exactly the old "city", at least the two *seguias* (courses/runs) which run along the left bank of the Dra, at the foot of the *jbel Zagora*, do they allow us to specify the place where the cradle of the Saadian dynasty must have been? The names of these séguias: *targa Merzraouia* and *targa Tagmadert* (fig. 1), are those that we were able to obtain on the spot; the first combines a Berber term - *targa* - it an Arabized Berber name - *Mezraouia* - (= the seguia of Amzrou), it designates the *seguia* which waters the gardens of Amzrou; the second *seguia*, called *Tagmadert*, also bears the name of the place it irrigated; it leads the water a little further, **which indicates that the Saadian Tagmadert should not be identified, as has often been proposed, with the ruins of the jbel Zagora**, **but that it was indeed located**, as F. de La Chapelle indicates, **between Sert and Amzrou,** that is to say a little more to the South. The fact remains that the Zagora summit has always had strategic importance and that it had to be constantly used for the protection of the “towns” of the palm grove. When Marmol writes that Tagmadert, *from where came the Cherifs whose descendants now reign over Fez and Morocco*, is a town of 1,500 inhabitants, twenty leagues from Quiteoa (Lektaoua, towards the Southeast at the elbow of the Dra), it indicates that it is defended by a *castle* on the top of a mountain; it is certainly the summit covered with ruins that we know under the name of Zagora: **these ruins are not those of the Saadian city, but the summit was certainly occupied by a garrison**.

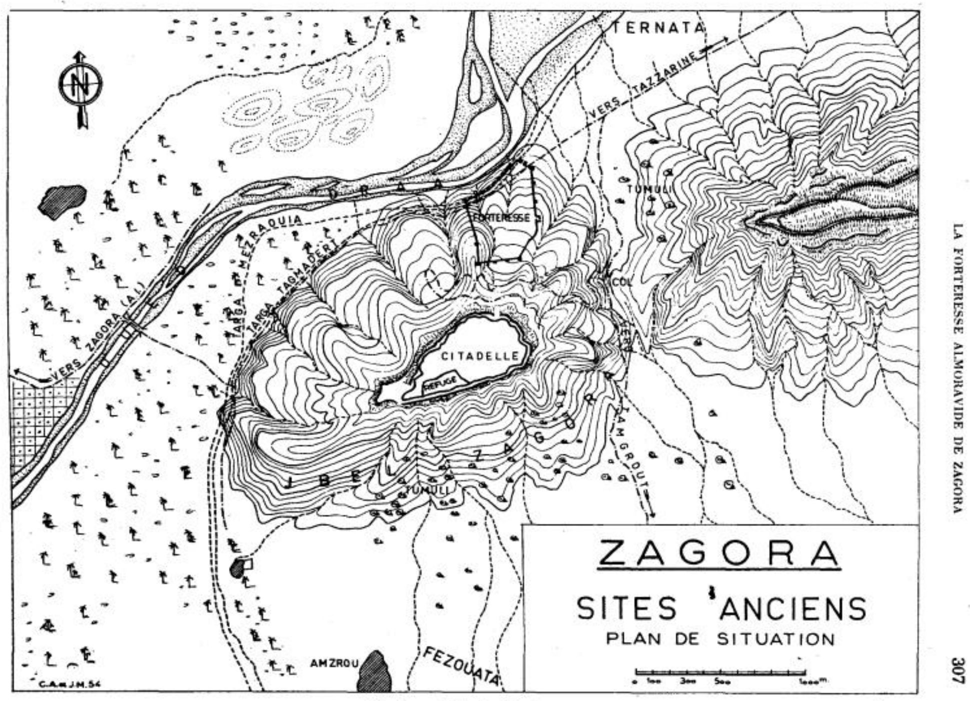


Fig. 1. — Plan de situation.